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REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims were objected to because of the informalities. In view of the objections, claim 1 has been amended to correct the informalities.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nishiberi* (US Patent No. 5,984,300).

On page 4 of the Office Action, it was indicated that claims 13-15, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 28 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Further, the examiner allowed claims 11, 16, and 23-26.

In view of the rejections and the indication of the allowance, claim 1 has been amended to include an additional limitation. Further, claim 13 has been amended to be independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. New claim 29 has been filed to obtain proper scope of the invention.

With the amendments, claims 13-15, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 28 should be in condition for allowance as the examiner indicated.

The applicants respectfully traverse the rejections on claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). With the amendments, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 27 should be in condition for allowance as well for the reason explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus for feeding a record medium one by one and recording an image on the record medium.

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The medium tray comprises a depository in which the record medium is loaded such that front and rear portions of the record medium have different angles with respect to a feeding direction of the record medium when the record medium is in the depository; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository such that the record medium in the depository is folded.

The depository includes a medium support for placing the front portion of the record medium and a rear guide extending upwardly from a rear end of the medium support for guiding the rear portion of the record medium upwardly. The medium support protrudes outside of the image recording apparatus from a side of the image recording apparatus to be exposed. The folding member is disposed at an upper portion of the rear guide, and the folding member includes a guide member for guiding the record medium toward the image recording apparatus.

In particular, in the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the folding member includes the guide member for guiding the record medium toward the image recording apparatus. When the medium tray is attached to the image recording apparatus, the medium tray does not protrude outside the image recording apparatus to a large extent while being capable of storing the recording medium having a large length. Accordingly, it is possible to reduce an installation area of the image recording apparatus.

Nishiberi has disclosed a sheet tray device for loading sheets. According to *Nishiberi*, a sub tray of a sheet tray is arranged so as to be held by a locking mechanism in any one of at least three rotational positions relative to a main tray including an opened position, a stored position and an intermediate position. (Abstract)

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In FIG. 1 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 1 denotes a main tray, provided with embossing 1A on either side for attachment to the main body (or automatic feeding device). Reference numeral 2 denotes a sub tray, and reference numeral 3 denotes a locking lever. The Figure illustrates the sub tray 2 being maintained in an opened position by means of the later-described locking mechanism. (col. 3, lines 20-26)

In FIG. 2 in *Nishiberi*, reference numeral 30 denotes a roller for feeding the cut sheet 9 serving as the recording sheet, reference numeral 4 denotes a coupled roller for pressing the sheet 9 to the feeding roller 30, reference numeral 5 denotes a first ejecting roller, reference numeral 6 denotes a second ejecting roller, reference numeral 7 denotes a carriage which is mounted with a recording head (recording means) 7a and performs main scanning, and reference numeral 8 denotes the exterior of the apparatus. (col. 3, lines 34-42) Further, reference numeral 2c denotes a fitting shaft adapted to be received by the fitting hole 1c of the main tray 1. (col. 5, lines 57-58)

As clearly shown in FIG. 7 in *Nishiberi*, it is possible to set a large recording medium such as the continuous form 11. However, the continuous form 11 (of record medium) straddles between the sub tray 2 and the device and hangs downward outside the device. Accordingly, it is necessary to secure an area outside the device for placing the continuous form 11, thereby increasing an installation area of the device.

In the medium tray of the invention recited in claim 1, the folding member includes the guide member for guiding the record medium toward the image recording apparatus. When the medium tray

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is attached to the image recording apparatus, the medium tray does not protrude outside the image recording apparatus to a large extent while being capable of storing the recording medium having a large length. Accordingly, it is possible to reduce an installation area of the image recording apparatus.

In *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the folding member including the guide member for guiding the record medium toward the image recording apparatus. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 1. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 1 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

As recited in new claim 29, a medium tray of the invention is attachable to an image recording apparatus. The medium tray comprises a depository protruding outside of the image recording apparatus to be exposed; and a folding member provided at a rear portion of the depository. Further, the folding member includes a guide member for guiding the record medium to be folded toward the image recording apparatus.

As clearly shown in FIG. 7 in *Nishiberi*, it is possible to set a large recording medium such as the continuous form 11. However, the continuous form 11 (of record medium) straddles between the sub tray 2 and the device and hangs downward outside the device. Accordingly, it is necessary to secure an area outside the device for placing the continuous form 11, thereby increasing an installation area of the device.

In *Nishiberi*, there is no description or suggestion regarding the folding member including the guide member for guiding the record

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medium to be folded toward the image recording apparatus. Accordingly, *Nishiberi* does not disclose all of the features of the invention recited in claim 29. Therefore, the invention recited in claim 29 is not anticipated by *Nishiberi*.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

The applicant has requested two-month extension of time. The credit card payment form in the amount of \$1,450 (three-month extension \$1,050, two extra independent claims \$400) has been attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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